



To: Mayor & Council
BCL 9.16.09

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Tomzak and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: September 15, 2009
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Riverfront Park Interim Improvements – The City has awarded a construction contract to Collins Contracting Company of Spotsylvania in the amount of \$86,445 for the interim park improvements which include demolition of “Wings on the Water,” site grading, sidewalk construction, and landscaping. The City conducted a pre-construction conference on-site September 15, and has issued a “Notice to Proceed.” The contractor has 60 days to complete the work, but staff expects the work to be finished sooner.

Dorothy Hart Community Center - Abby Construction Company has been selected as the contractor for the replacement of the Dorothy Hart Community Center (DHCC) roof, siding, and associated work. Construction will begin no later than September 23 and is expected to be finished in 30 days. The budget for the work (including some work by the City's Special Projects Division) is \$180,000.

Museum Windows - The mock-up window has been approved by both City and Museum staff. Structural Preservation Systems, the contractor, has begun the window restoration project, which will be followed by repairs to the balance of the wood on the exterior of the building. Public Works has issued the necessary permits for sidewalk closure and scaffolding installation on the sidewalk. Pedestrians will be routed around scaffolding into the barricaded parking area, and some parking spots will be lost due to this phase of construction. The project should be completed by the end of the calendar year. The project budget is \$140,684.

Circuit Court Windows - Heflin Decorators has begun the repair and painting of all Circuit Court exterior windows, soffit, fascia wood, door frames, and railings, excluding the Bell Tower. This project is part of the on-going rehabilitation of the Circuit Court building funded by a matching grant received from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Work is expected to be slow due to the level of activity at the court building. The project is dependent on weather conditions and approval from the court to perform the work on a daily basis. The project is expected to be completed by the end of October. The project cost is \$35,788.

In a related project at Circuit Court, downspouts have been connected to the existing underground storm water drainage systems, and the parking lot at the rear of the building has been paved.

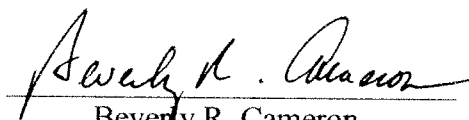
Fire Department Open House - The 2009 Fire Department Open House will take place on Sunday, October 4, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Fire Station One, coinciding with Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, 2009. In the past, the Open House has hosted an average of 500 to 750 attendees every year. The Open House provides an opportunity for families to tour the station and learn both fire and life safety lessons. Firefighters give demonstrations with equipment and allow participants to experience a dark smoke-filled room that can be searched with our state-of-the-art thermal imaging camera. Attendees can also dress in firefighting gear, attempt to drag a mannequin (simulating the removal of a victim from a building), and take kids through the down-and-out house, a structure built to the dimensions of a child to allow the child to look for and identify fire hazards. Children can have their picture taken with Sparky the Fire Dog and play in a "moon bounce" provided by the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad. The Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Company assists in preparing food and handing out fire safety material. Year after year this event is a huge success in building community relationships and teaching skills that could one day save someone's life.

Sunshine Lady Donates to Community Policing - Ms. Doris Buffett's Sunshine Lady Foundation recently provided a generous donation to fund a children's "Moon Bounce" for police-involved neighborhood events such as family movie nights and block parties. During these events, the community police officers continue to strengthen the bonds they have established with the area's children while positively influencing the adult residents by focusing on safety and crime prevention. It is hoped that the addition of this equipment will greatly enhance our efforts toward earning community support through positive police contact.

Police Department Holds Benefit Yard Sale - On Saturday, September 12, the Police Department held a large yard sale, stocked entirely by donated items from staff and friends, and manned by department volunteers and their family members. The proceeds from the yard sale, totaling in excess of \$1200, will go toward next year's Police Unity Tour. The Unity Tour is a three-day bike ride in honor of law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty. The Unity Tour is held in conjunction with National Police Week and each participant must raise at least \$1,500. Additional Tour fundraisers are scheduled throughout the year.

Kenmore Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement - This project is scheduled to begin later this month and will have a significant impact on traffic flow on Kenmore Avenue during construction. A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 21, 4:30pm-7:00pm in the Suite at City Hall to provide residents and business stakeholders in the affected area the opportunity to review the project plans and ask questions about the work and the expected disruptions.

Powhatan Reservoir Repairs - Work continues on repairs to the four million gallon Powhatan Street Reservoir. As of September 15, the tank is being drained to permit the performance of repairs to the interior of the structure.


Beverly R. Cameron